

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A method of reconfiguring a storage system, the method comprising:

operating an integrated storage system which includes a plurality of mass storage devices installed in a chassis and a plurality of storage server heads installed in the chassis to control the mass storage devices in response to a set of clients, wherein each of the plurality of heads has ownership of a different subset of the plurality of mass storage devices, and each of the mass storage devices is owned by exactly one of the storage server heads, wherein each of the storage server heads is implemented on a separate, single circuit board;

disconnecting each of the storage server heads from the mass storage devices;

removing each of the separate, single circuit boards from the chassis;

installing a plurality of input/output modules in the chassis in a space previously occupied by the separate, single circuit boards;

connecting a plurality of external storage server head units to the mass storage devices installed in the chassis via the input/output modules; and

using a software-based command to reassign ownership of the plurality of mass storage devices to the plurality of external storage server head units independently of how the mass storage devices and the external storage server head units are physically interconnected, without removing any of the mass storage devices from the chassis.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein using a software-based command to reassign ownership of the plurality of mass storage devices comprises storing an ownership attribute on a storage medium in each of the plurality of mass storage devices.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising connecting the external storage server head units to a second plurality of mass storage devices installed in a second chassis, wherein one of the external storage server head units further has ownership of the second plurality of mass storage devices.

17-18. (Canceled)